

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an oxide superconducting wire, comprising:
 - a step of preparing a wire formed by covering raw material powder of an oxide superconductor with a metal; and
 - a heat treatment ~~step of~~ by heat-treating said wire in a pressurized atmosphere having a total pressure of at least 1 MPa and less than 50 MPa in the heat treatment, wherein pressurization is started from a temperature reducing 0.2 % yield strength of said metal below said total pressure ~~in said heat treatment~~ at a heat-up time before the heat treatment ~~in said heat treatment step~~; and
 - wherein the pressurization of the atmosphere is continuously increased for the duration of the heat treatment at a speed of said pressurization is at least 0.05 MPa/min.
2. (Cancelled).
3. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing an oxide superconducting wire according to claim 1, wherein
 - the speed of said pressurization is at least 0.1 MPa/min.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of manufacturing an oxide superconducting wire according to claim 1, wherein
 - said heat treatment ~~step~~ is carried out in an oxygen atmosphere, with a partial oxygen pressure of at least 0.003 MPa and not more than 0.02 MPa.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of manufacturing an oxide superconducting wire according to claim 1, wherein
 - said raw material powder of said oxide superconductor includes a Bi2223 phase, and
 - said wire is annealed in an oxygen-containing atmosphere of a temperature of at least 300°C and not more than 600°C in said heat treatment ~~step~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of manufacturing an oxide superconducting wire according to claim 1, further comprising a step of twisting said wire in advance of said heat treatment step.
7. (Original) The method of manufacturing an oxide superconducting wire according to claim 1, wherein said wire is not rolled.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing an oxide superconducting wire according to claim 1, wherein
a wire formed by covering a ceramic-covered rod, obtained by covering said raw material powder with ceramic, with said metal is prepared in said step of preparing said wire.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of manufacturing an oxide superconducting wire according to claim 1, further comprising a step of molding said wire into a coil in advance of said heat treatment step.
10. (Currently Amended) The method of manufacturing an oxide superconducting wire according to claim 1, wherein
said wire is held under a decompressed atmosphere before said pressurization in said heat treatment step is started.
11. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an oxide superconducting wire, comprising:
a step of preparing a wire formed by covering raw material powder of an oxide superconductor with a metal including silver; and
a heat treatment step of by heat-treating said wire in a pressurized atmosphere having a total pressure of at least 1 MPa and less than 50 MPa in the heat treatment, wherein
pressurization is started after the temperature of said atmosphere exceeds 400°C at a heat-up time before the heat treatment in said heat treatment step; and
wherein the pressurization of the atmosphere is continuously increased during the heat treatment at a speed of said pressurization is at least 0.05 MPa/min.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of manufacturing an oxide superconducting wire according to claim 11, wherein

said pressurization is started after the temperature of said atmosphere exceeds 600°C at the heat-up time before the heat treatment in said heat treatment step.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of modifying an oxide superconducting wire, comprising:

a heat treatment ~~step of~~ by heat-treating an oxide superconducting wire formed by covering an oxide superconductor with a metal in a pressurized atmosphere having a total pressure of at least 1 MPa and less than 50 MPa in the heat treatment, wherein

pressurization is started from a temperature reducing 0.2 % yield strength of said metal below said total pressure ~~in said heat treatment~~ at a heat-up time before the heat treatment ~~in said heat treatment step~~; and

wherein the pressurization of the atmosphere is continuously increased during the heat treatment at a speed of said pressurization is at least 0.05 MPa/min.

14. (Cancelled).

15. (Previously Presented) The method of modifying an oxide superconducting wire according to claim 1, wherein

the speed of said pressurization is at least 0.1 MPa/min.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of modifying an oxide superconducting wire according to claim 13, wherein

said heat treatment ~~step~~ is carried out in an oxygen atmosphere, with a partial oxygen pressure of at least 0.003 MPa and not more than 0.02 MPa.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of modifying an oxide superconducting wire according to claim 13, wherein

said oxide superconducting wire includes a Bi2223 phase, and

said oxide superconducting wire is annealed in an oxygen-containing atmosphere of a temperature of at least 300°C and not more than 600°C in said heat treatment step.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of modifying an oxide superconducting wire according to claim 13, wherein

said oxide superconducting wire is held under a decompressed atmosphere before said pressurization in said heat treatment ~~step~~ is started.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of modifying an oxide superconducting wire, comprising:

a heat treatment ~~step of~~ by heat-treating a wire formed by covering an oxide superconducting wire with a metal including silver in a pressurized atmosphere having a total pressure of at least 1 MPa and less than 50 MPa in the heat treatment, wherein

pressurization is started after the temperature of said atmosphere exceeds 400°C at a heat-up time before the heat treatment in said heat treatment ~~step~~; and

wherein the pressurization of the atmosphere is continuously increased during the heat treatment at a speed of ~~said pressurization is~~ at least 0.05 MPa/min.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of modifying an oxide superconducting wire according to claim 19, wherein

said pressurization is started after the temperature of said atmosphere exceeds 600°C at the heat-up time before said heat treatment in said heat treatment ~~step~~.

21. - 22. (Cancelled).

23. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing an oxide superconducting wire according to claim 1, further comprising maintaining the pressurized atmosphere below 1 MPa immediately before the pressurization is started from a temperature reducing 0.2 % yield strength of said metal.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing an oxide superconducting wire according to claim 11, further comprising maintaining the pressurized atmosphere below 1 MPa immediately before the pressurization is started from a temperature reducing 0.2 % yield strength of said metal.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing an oxide superconducting wire according to claim 1, wherein the speed of said pressurization is increased at least 0.05 MPa/min until the pressure of 50 MPa is reached.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing an oxide superconducting wire according to claim 1, wherein the pressurization inhibits gas penetration in pinholes in the metal during heat-up time before heat treatment.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing an oxide superconducting wire according to claim 1, wherein the pressure of the atmosphere at heat-up time is continuously increased at a rate of at least 0.05 MPa/min such that the pressure of the atmosphere is maintained higher than a pressure inside the superconducting wire.

28. (New) The method of manufacturing an oxide superconducting wire according to claim 1,

wherein the heat-up time spans a period of time where the temperature of the atmosphere is increased;

wherein the heat treatment spans a period of time after the heat-up time and during the heat treatment the temperature of the atmosphere is maintained at about 830°C;

wherein the pressurization in the atmosphere is continuously increased during the heat treatment while the temperature of the atmosphere is maintained at about 830°C.

29. (New) The method of manufacturing an oxide superconducting wire according to claim 1,

wherein the heat treatment occurs after the heat-up time;

wherein the pressurization of the atmosphere is continuously increased while the temperature of the atmosphere remains constant during the heat treatment.

30. (New) The method of manufacturing an oxide superconducting wire according to claim 29, wherein the temperature of the atmosphere is continuously increased during the heat-up time.